

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3717

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PO

SUBJ: BIO ON NEW MINISTERS

1. DR. MANUEL LUIS MACAISTA MALHEIROS, MINISTER OF INTERNAL COMMERCE: MALHEIROS, 35, WAS BORN IN ALCACER DO SAL AND IS CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT. HE GRADUATED IN LAW IN 1962 AND HAS SPECIALIZED IN ECONOMIC AND LABOR LAW. HE DEFENDED NUMEROUS OPPOSITIONISTS DURING THE CAETONO REGIME, AND WAS A STUDENT BODY LEADER WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY. HE WAS ALSO A TECHNICIAN IN THE INVESTOR'S SUPPORT SERVICE, AND AFTER THE APRIL 25 COUP WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF ALCACER DO SAL. MALHEIROS' LAST POSITION WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC CONTROLS. PRIOR TO THAT HE WAS CHIEF OF CABINET OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL COMMERCE AND TOURISM. HE IS A DIRECTOR OF THE PORTUGUESE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. DR. MARIO JOAO DE OLIVEIRA RUIVO, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER. A MARINE BIOLOGIST BY PROFESSION, DR. RUIVO'S LAST POSITION WAS THAT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES IN THE FOURTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. PRIOR TO THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RESEARCH AND PROTECTION OF LIVE RESOURCES AND OF AQUATIC ENVORNMENT, OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COORDINATION. DR. RUIVO TRAVELED ABROAD EXTENSIVELY WHILE HEAD OF THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, BOTH TO OBTAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGAL'S FISHING

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INDUSTRY AND TO SECURE FISHING RIGHTS. REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE

REASONS FOR HIS SELECTION WAS HIS EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND FAO. RUIVO IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED (BY SOARES, A FRIEND, AMONG OTHERS) AS A CRYPTO-COMMUNIST. PRES. COSTA GOMES DESCRIBED HIM TO AMBASSADOR AS A LEFT-SOCIALIST OF THE EX-MES TYPE.

3. DR. JORGE AUGUSTO DA CUNHA FERRO RIBEIRO, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION: A JUDGE, RIBEIRO WAS PREVIOUSLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION.

4. CDR FERNANDO DA CONCEICAO QUITERIO DE BRITO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY. PREVIOUSLY WORKING IN THE SINES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, QUITERIO DE BRITO IS A CHEMICAL ENGINEER SPECIALIZING IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND COMBUSTIBLES.

5. ENG. HENRIGUE OLOVEIRA E SA, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT AND INTERIM MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT OLIVEIRA E SA WORKED FOR THE LISBON WATER COMPANY.

COMMENT: ABSENCE OF DEFLARED COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS THAT GONCALVES MADE EFFORT TO FORM GOVERNMENT CABINET THAT THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR "AS NON-PARTISAN GOVERNMENT OF TECHNICIANS." MOST OF THE NEW MEMBERS ARE POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS.
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